

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 5, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Mid-Columbia Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Project EA
(DOE/EA-1282/SA-02)

TO: L. Hermeston - KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Peshastin Incubation Facility

Project No: 1996-040-00

Location: Peshastin, Chelan County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Yakama Nation

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is funding ongoing studies, research, and artificial production of coho salmon in the Wenatchee and Methow river basins. BPA analyzed environmental impacts of these activities in the Mid-Columbia Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Project Final EA, completed in April 1999 (DOE/EA-1282). A Supplemental Analysis (DOE/EA-1282/SA-01) was prepared in March 2001 to analyze effects of additional activities proposed for the project.

The purpose of this second Supplement Analysis is to determine if a supplemental EA is needed to analyze effects of a new incubation site for coho eggs. The current proposal is to install temporary incubation and rearing facilities at an existing warehouse near Peshastin in fall 2001, because negotiations to install such facilities at the Two Rivers site near Lake Wenatchee, as evaluated in the previous Supplement Analysis, have not been successfully completed.

Temporary incubation tanks would be placed in a former fruit warehouse on the outskirts of the town of Peshastin. No ground disturbing work would be required, as the building and a cement slab already exist at the site. The owners have sufficient water rights to provide the 10 - 20 gallons of flow needed to supply the incubation tanks. Water is from Peshastin's municipal water supply. Effluents would be discharged into an existing catch basin. The site has existing electrical service.

Another site on Icicle Ridge was considered but is not proposed. It would require bringing electrical service 300 feet to the site. In addition, water would be discharged into a stream that eventually flows into the ground and dissipates, raising concerns about effects on groundwater.

Analysis: This activity is not expected to affect any fish, wildlife, aquatic, terrestrial or human resources. The site has been developed already and no ground disturbing work will be required to make it usable for coho egg incubation. Electricity, water supply and rights, and wastewater

settling facilities are already in place; water use and discharges will not exceed current permits. A National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit is not required because the pounds of fish produced and feed fed is 0. Although formalin will be used on the eggs and thus will be part of the wastewater, it is a chemical approved by the Federal Drug Administration specifically for aquaculture. It will be used strictly according to label instructions, and through dilution and dissipation in the catch basin for the facility, will be present in such minute quantities in the final wastewater that it will not pose an adverse impact to water quality. Fish will not be released at this site, so there will be no interactions with other species that may be present.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Mid-Columbia Coho Reintroduction Feasibility Project Final EA (DOE/EA-1282) and FONSI, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Nancy H. Weintraub

Nancy H. Weintraub
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 10-05-2001

cc:

T. Scribner, Yakama Nation